(c) what steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government on he various impediments brought out by the C & AG in his report on the functioning of the Central Silk Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The important recommendations made by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in its review on the working of the Central Silk Board are as under :—

(i) There is a need to revise the existing financial powers of the Board.

(ii) Setting up of zonal offices of the Board may be considered for maintaining close coordination with State Governments.

(iii) Periodical review of the research activities of the Board may be undertaken with a view to fix priorities and avoid duplication.

(iv) Necessary measures need to be taken to attain the targets of training of farmers/reelers and to obtain a feedback on the results of training.

(v) Emphasis should be laid on promoting the adoption of bivoltine silkworm races in selected areas.

The above recommendations have been taken note of for consideration and appropriate action. The Central Silk Board has been directed to ensure that the Scientific Advisory Committees may meet at regular intervals to review the progress of research projects. The Board has also been directed to intensify its efforts to achieve the targets of training and to obtain regular feedback on the results of the same. Similarly, greater emphasis will be laid on promoting the adoption of bivoltine silkworm races in selected areas.

Recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee

1572. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Abid Hussain Committee on review of the 1985 Textile Policy has recommended that "Support for Handloom Weavers should be universal and not based on membership of corporate or cooperative bodies" ;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation requesting for the implementating of the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided that the co-operative coverage in the handloom sector should be increased and at the same time, support to handloom weavers would also be available to weavers outside co-operative wherever it is practically possible to do so. Government accordingly modified some of the schemes presently implemented in the handloom sector.

(c) A representation dated 5th November 1993 had been received from Shri Progada Kotaiah, MP and a reply sent on 7th December, 1993.

Silk Production in Karnataka

1573. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of silk in Karnataka is suffering due to the stringent regulations of the State Government on the corporate sector projects ; and

(b) whether the Central Government have requested the State Government to modify the regulations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir. The raw silk production in the State of Karnataka has increased from a level of 6214 metric tonnes in 1990-91 to 7285 metric tonnes (provisional) in 1992-93. However, the establishment of large scale silk units in the State by the corporate sector may help in further increase of its raw silk production.

(b) The need for liberalisation of regulatory controls on sericulture industry has been emphasised to all major silk producing States including Karnataka.

Closure of NTC Mills in Bombay

1574. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has decided to close down nine of its mills in Bombay ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how many workers are likely to be rendered jobless as a result of this closure ; and

(d) what is the reaction of the textile labourers and their unions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The future disposition of the mills of NTC in Bombay shall be decided by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special provisions) Act, 1985, after assesing their economic viability and in consultation with all parties concerned.

Constraints Faced by Textile Industry

1575. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the major constraints being faced by the textile industry ; and

(b) the steps taken to remove those constraints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) There are at present no major constraints in the Textile Industry. However, requirement of funds for modernisation etc. has been taken up with the concerned authorities at the appropriate level.

Sick Textile Mills in the Country

1576. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of sick textile mills in the country at present ;

(b) the reasons for the sickness of these mills ;

(c) whether Government propose to merge the sick textile mills with profit making ones ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on 12-7-93, 247 mills were reported to be registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as sick.

(b) The main reasons for sickness are competition from powerlooms in the decentralised sector, low productivity of both machine & labour, lack of modernisation and excess labour compliment, increase in cost of inputs, excess capacity etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Central Scheme for Handloom Weavers

1577. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently reminded the State Governments to take urgent steps to implement the new Rs. 850 crores Central Schtme for handloom weavers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?